

Message Text

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SUBJ: THAI MEDIA REACTION--PRESIDENT CARTER'S ANNAPOLIS SPEECH

1. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE "NATION" SATURDAY, IN EDIT ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S ANNAPOLIS SPEECH, CONCLUDES THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN USSR AND US NOT AS BAD AS SPEECH MAKES THEM SOUND DUE IMPERATIVES TO WORK FOR PEACE ON BOTH SIDES, AND SAYS THAT CHINA'S ENTRY INTO A MORE ACTIVIST FOREIGN POLICY CHANGES THE EQUATION ALSO.

HEREWCTH FULL TEXT: "THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL INTERPRETATIONS OF PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER'S SPEECH ALREADY AND SOME HAVE BEMOANED AND SOME HAVA HAILED THEIR SPECULATION THAT SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS ARE ENTERING A COLD WAR STATE. WE ARE NOT QUITE SURE THAT WE ARE ENTERING A NEW PHASE OF COLD WAR AND, IF IT WERE SO, WHETHER TO HAIL IT OR MOURN IT. WE BALIEVE THAT BOTH CARTER AND PRESIDENT LEONID BREZHNEV CONSIDER THAT THE SECOND STAGE OF STRATEGIC AVXJFQIMITATION TALKS (SALT II) AND THE CURRENT TALKS IN VIENNA ABOUT THE MUTUAL BALANCED REDUCTION OF FORCES (MBRF)(SIC) IN EUROPE ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR BOTH THEIR COUNTRIES.

"CARTER MADE TWO TOUGH SPEECHES RECENTLY ONE AT THE NATO SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON AND ANOTHER AT THE US NAVAL ACADEMY-WARNING THE SOVIET UNION OF INTERNATIONAL ADVENTURISM. BUT FROM READING THOSE SPEECHES CAREFULLY WE FIND CARTER MORE LIKE A SHEEP IN WOLF'S CLOTHING AND UNCLASSIFIED

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WE DOUBT WHATEVER TOUGHNESS OTHERS SEE IN THOSE SPEECHES WOULD RUB OFF ON THE KREMLIN.

"IN THE SAME WAY, WE SEE BREZHNEV AS GOING ALL OUT FOR DETENTE NOT BECAUSE HE IS A MAN OF PEACE BUT BECAUSE IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR HIS COUNTRY BUT HIS IDEA OF DETENTE IS TO DEFUSE THE TENSION BETWEEN NATO AND WARSAW PACT-AS ALSO BETWEEN THE TWO SUPERPOWERS-SO THAT

MOSCOW WILL BE ABLE TO PLAY HER INTERNATIONAL ROLE AGGRESSIVELY AS SHE HAS BEEN DOING IN AFRICA FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS.

"THE ATMOSPHERE OF DETENTE, BROUGHT IN BY FORMER PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON AND SALT I, DOES NOT NOW MEAN THE SAME IN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW

THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT HAS BROUGHT ABOUT THE CHANGE IN CARTER'S ATTITUDE AND ALTHOUGH THE WORD 'LINKAGE' IS NOT BEING USED THERE IS NO DOUBT THERE IS SOME CONNECTION BETWEEN THE SALT II TALKS AND SOVIET-CUBAN ADVENTURISM IN AFRICA. THERE IS ANOTHER FLY IN THE OINTMENT. EVEN IF SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE CONCLUDES THE SALT II SUCCESSFULLY, THE AMERICAN CONGRESS WHICH ISNCONDUCTING ITS OWN FOREIGN POLICY WILL NOT RATIFY IT.

"THE WATERSHED IN THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE SPIRIT OF DETENTE CAME WITH ANGOLA AND THE SUCCESS SCORED BY THE SOVIET-CUBAN INTERVENTION AT A TIME WHEN THE UNITED STATES WAS ENJOYING HER POST-WATERGATE MASOCHISM. IT WAS THE EASY SUCCESS IN ANGOLA THAT BROUGHT KREMLIN HARDLINES TO THE FORE AND, DESPITE BREZHNEV'S PRE-OCCUPATION WITH DETNETE, MADE THEM GO AHEAD WITH PLANS IN ETHIOPIA AND ULTIMATTELY THE INVASION OF SHABA PROVINCE IN ZAIRE.

"SOME THING SIMILAR SEEMS TO HAVE OCCURRED IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND, WHERE FOREIGN POLICY IS CONCERNED, SOFTLINER VANCE SEEMS TO HAVE GIVEN WAY TO HARDLINER ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI. BUT STILL THAT DOES NOT CHANGE CARTER FROM A SHEEP TO A WOLF. AND EVEN IF HE TRIES TO,

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CONGRESS IS KEEPING A TIGHT REIN ON HIM.

"WHAT COULD PERHAPS BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN ALL THIS IS THE CHINA HAS TURNED HER BACK TO CHOU EN-LAI'S STRATEGY. THIS HAS MADE CHINA ENTER THE WORLD STAGE WITH BOTH ARMS FLAILING AND SHE IS STATING HER FOREIGN POLICY CRISPPLY AND ARTICULATLEY IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS- DURING THE LAST TWO WEEKS IN THE UN, IN KINSHASA AND IN THE HAGUE. THERE IS NO QUESTION THE WORDS WILL HAVE SERIOUS IMPACT ON BOTH WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW."

2. COLUMNIST "BLACK COFFEE", IN MEDIUM-CIRCULATION THAI-LANGUAGE "DAILY TIME" STRONGLY CRITICIZES CARTER SPEECH, INTIMATING THAT TOUGH TONE OF ANNAPOLIS SPECH DIRECTLY LINKED TO DROP IN POPULARITY POLLS. "ONLY A FEW MONTHS AGO", SAYS THE COLUMN, "HE (CARTER) TEASINGLY ACCUSED SOME GROUPS OF AMERICANS THAT THEY WERE TERRIBLY AFRAID OF RUSSIA. WHAT HE SAID BECAME A BOOMERANG WHEN HE DELIVERED A LONG ADDRESS TO GRADUATES OF THE U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY. HIS STATEMENTS ARE REGARDED AS A CHALLENGE TO THE USSR, FOR 'THE SOVIET UNION TO CHOOSE FRIENDSHIP OR CONFRONTATION... THAT THE US CAN ALWAYS FACE IT.

"
IT IS NORMAL FOR AMERICANS TO ABUSE RUSSIA, BUT FOR SUCH AN IGNORANT STATEMENT TO BE MADE BY MR. CARTER IS A MOST STRANGE ACT CAUSING

WONDER TO AMERICANS.

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